

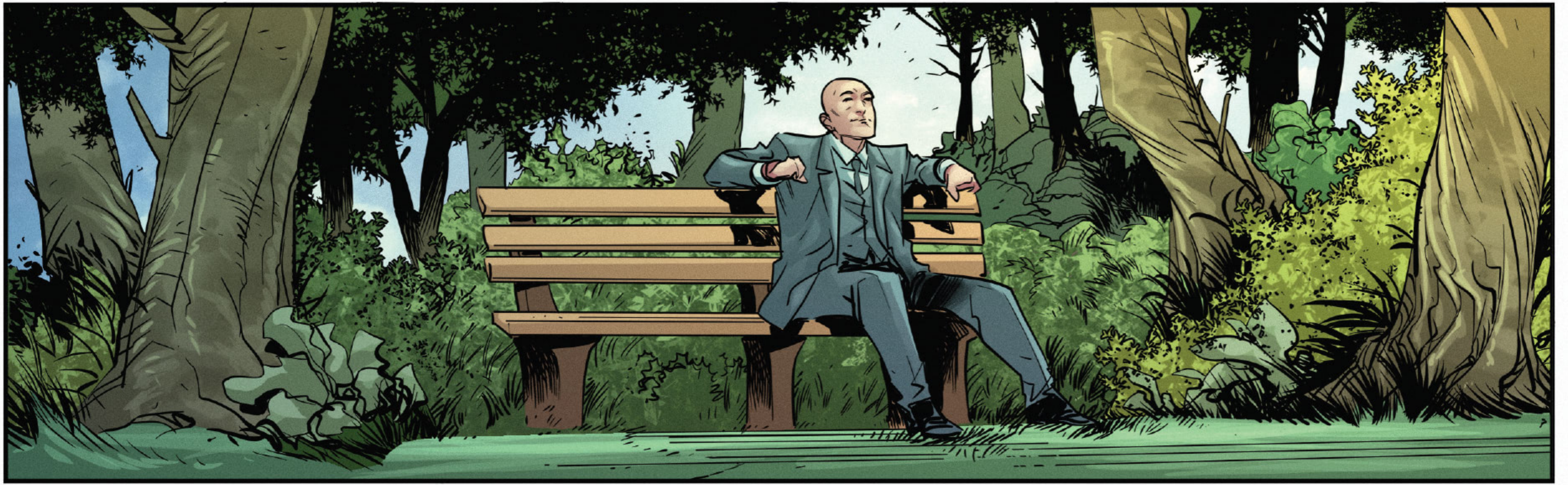
BENJAMIN PERCY
FEDERICO VICENTINI
DIJJO LIMA

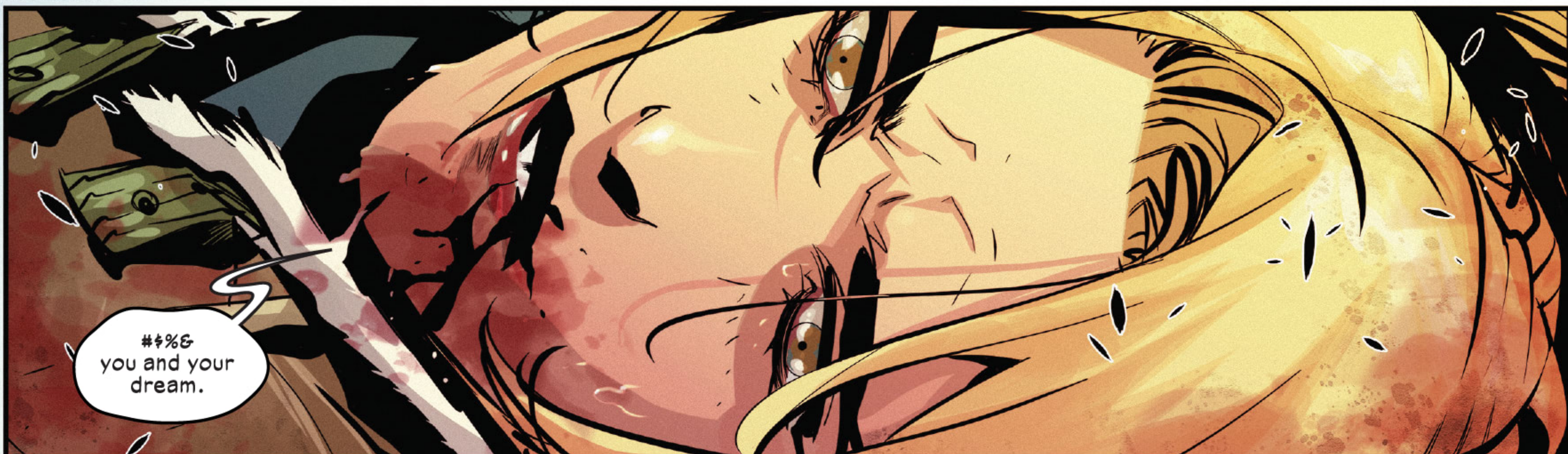
X DEATHS OF WOLVERINE

ISSUE 5



ADAM KUBER
DANK





##%&
you and your
dream.



I wish
I never met
you.



You
coward.



You
traitor.



I won't
let you
win.

I won't...
I can't...



...die.

DEAD END

For perceived crimes against mutantkind, Mystique and Destiny used Forge’s neutralizer gun to strip Moira MacTaggert of her mutant ability to resurrect and restart the timeline. Facing mortality for the first time, Moira turned to tech genius Arnab Chakladar for a way to cheat death permanently.

A thousand years in the future, a robotic Moira infected Wolverine with a Phalanx virus that his healing factor can only barely keep at bay. Traveling back through time, that “Omega Wolverine” arrived in the present day to stop Moira before she could betray the mutants. Joined by Laura, Gabby and Daken, Omega Wolverine tracked Moira back to Krakoa, where he stabbed her in the chest. But Moira managed to fire the neutralizer gun at Omega Wolverine, halting his healing factor, allowing the Phalanx infection to take over his body.



DEATH OF WOLVERINE

X_5

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Please advise.
What's your
location?

About three
clicks south by
southwest of the
Blossom Bogs.
Heading due
north.

With
deviation?

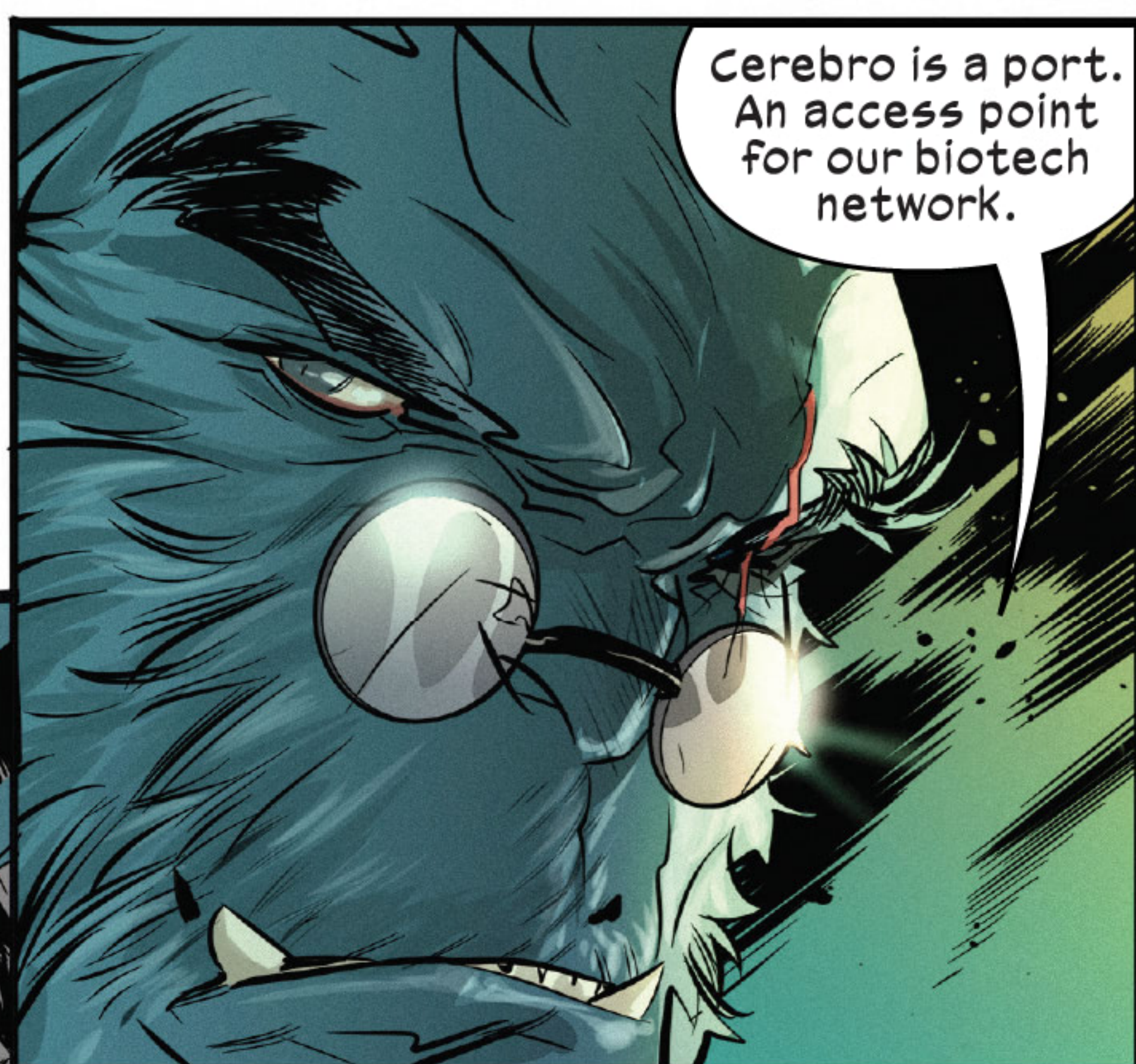
Straight
shot. He
knows where
he's going.



The Cradle--
he's--it must
be headed for
the *Cradle*.
Unit C4.

Of
course
it is.

The Phalanx
is an intelligence,
but it's also a contagion. A
contagion's purpose is to spread
and further its corruption.



Cerebro is a port.
An access point
for our biotech
network.



This is the Phalanx's
best chance to upload
its living malware and--
where are you
going?

You work
on severing that
cradle from the
mainframe. Make it
an *independent*
unit.



I've
got other
plans.



Oh, and Sage?

Yes, Wolverines?



I hope you have a plan.

Because I don't know that we're going to be able to do more than slow this thing down.



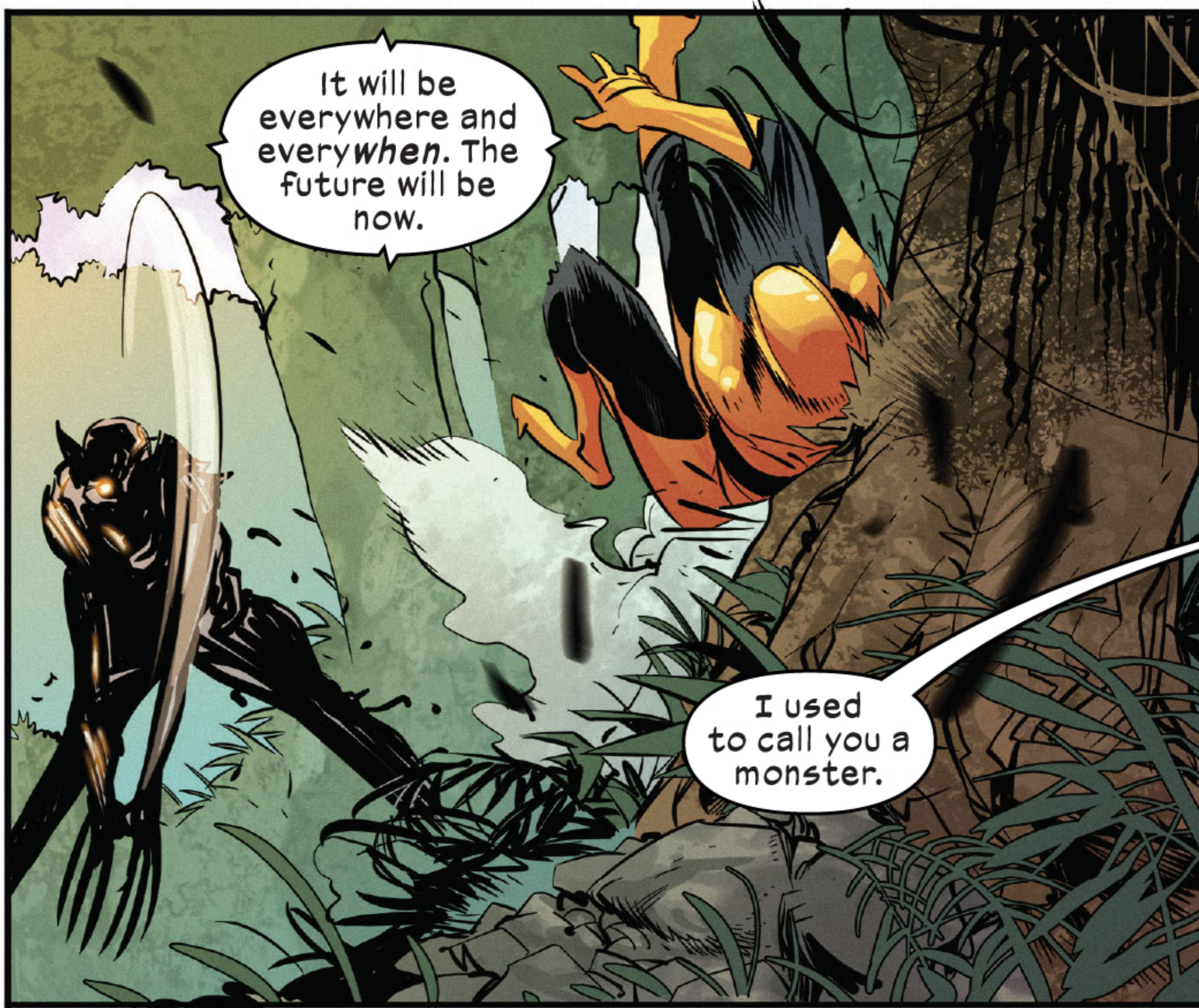
I'm-- WE-ARE-PHALANX

I'm working as fast as I can, but you need to stand your ground.

I'm--WE-ARE-PHALANX-- I'm sorry!

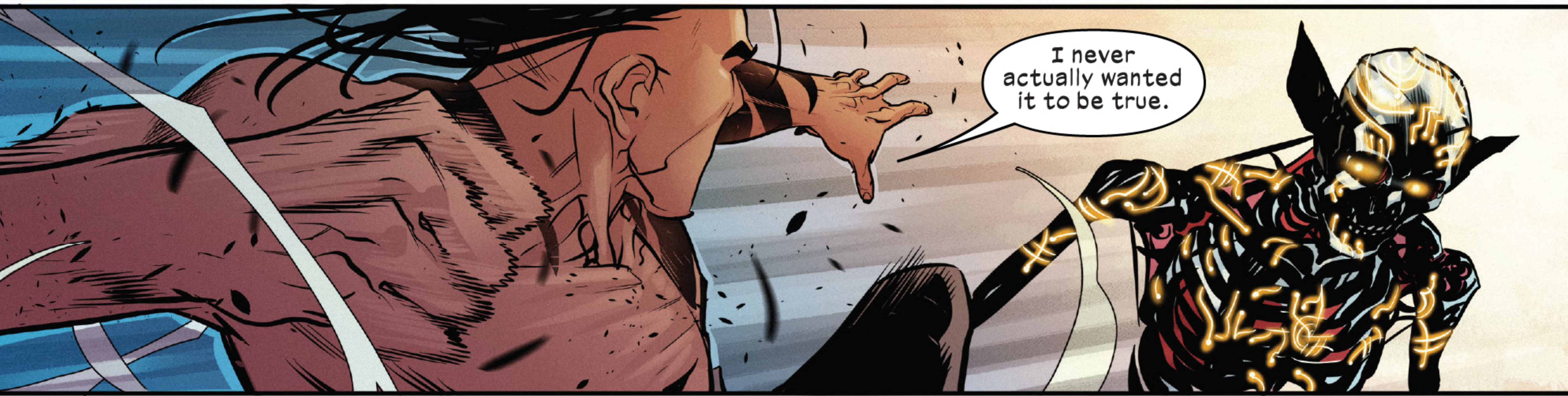


The Phalanx *cannot* get into the Cradle. Or it will be unstoppable.

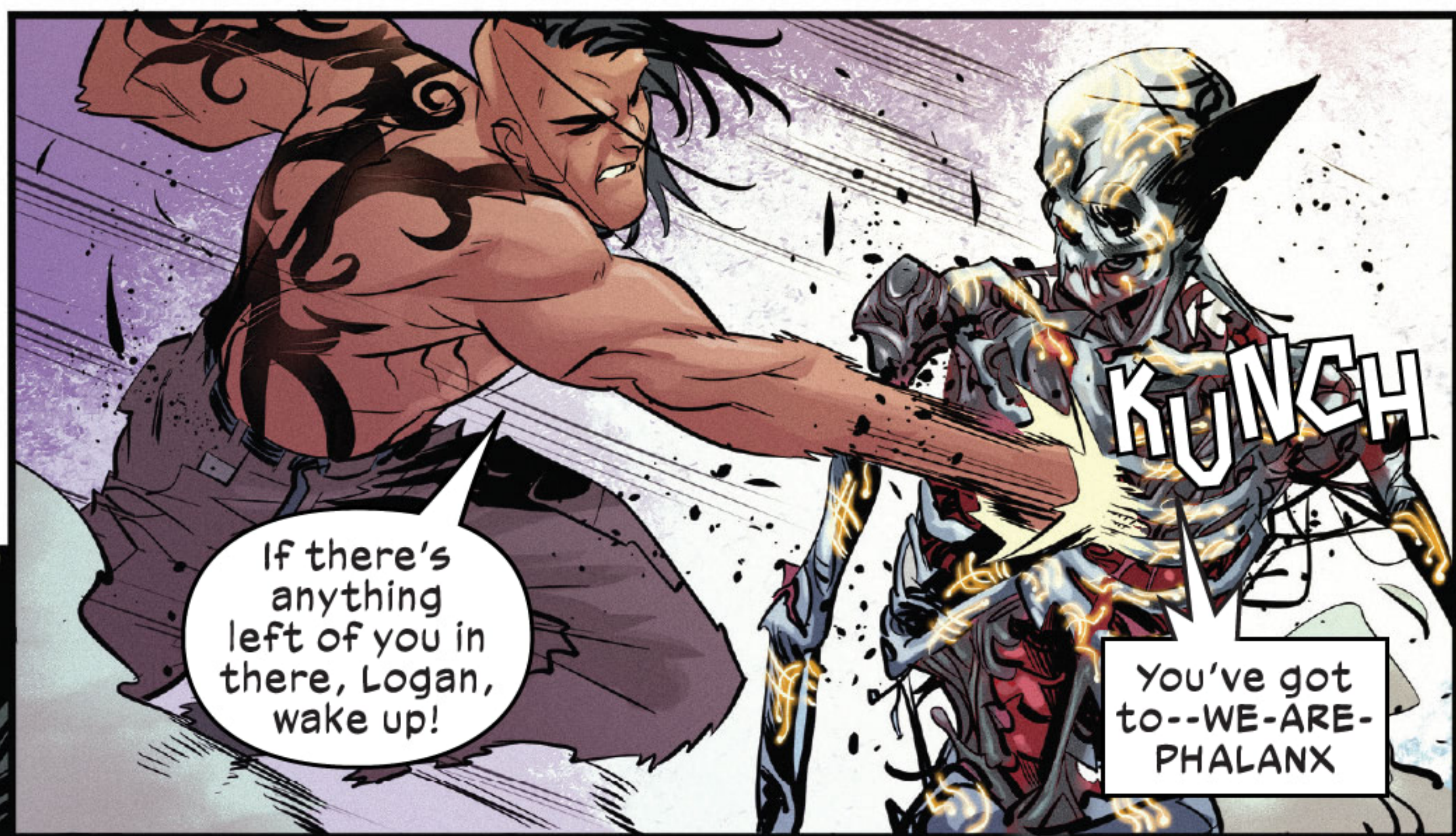


It will be everywhere and *everywhen*. The future will be now.

I used to call you a monster.

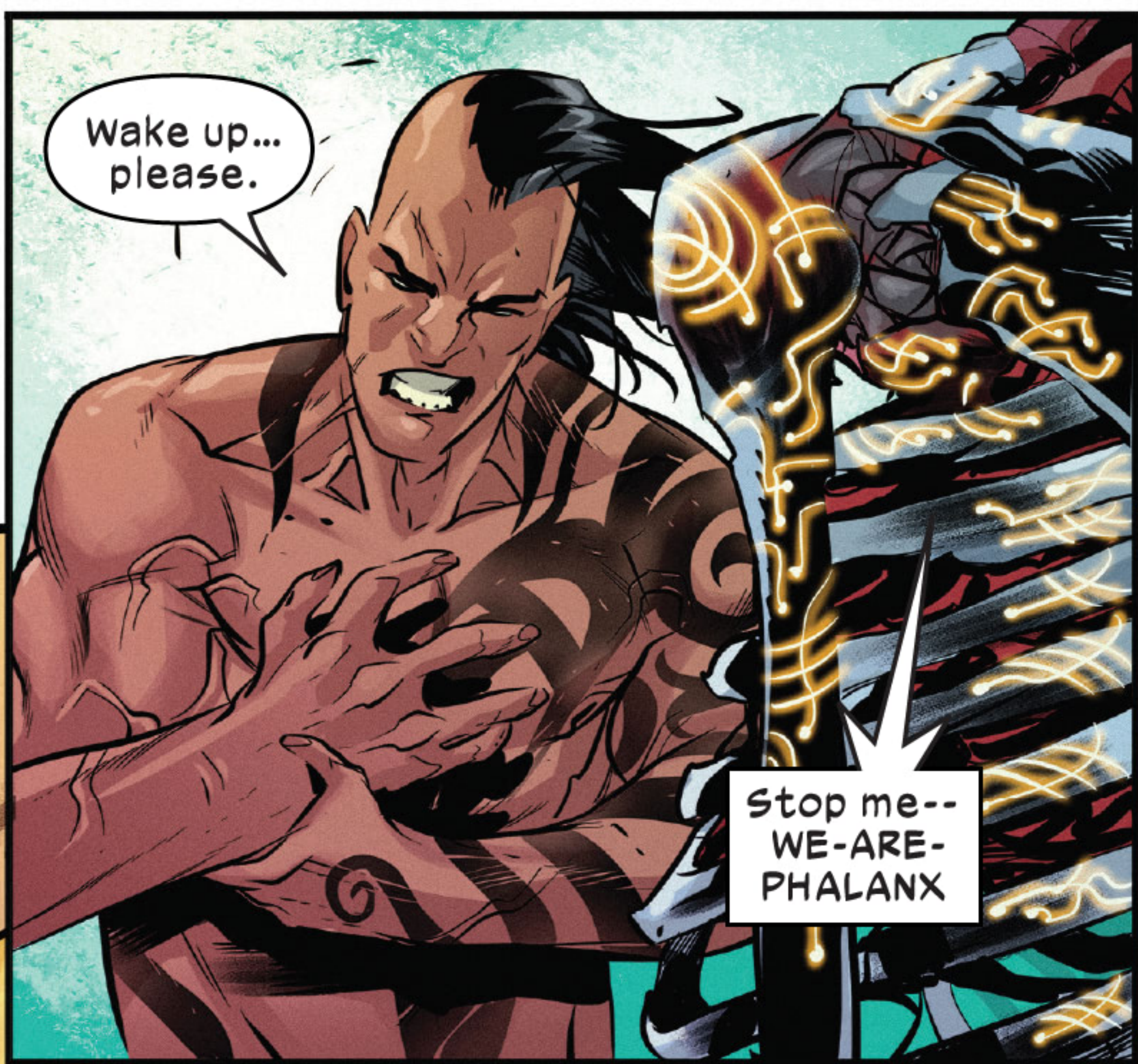


I never actually wanted it to be true.



If there's anything left of you in there, Logan, wake up!

You've got to--WE-ARE-PHALANX



Wake up... please.

Stop me--WE-ARE-PHALANX



SLAK

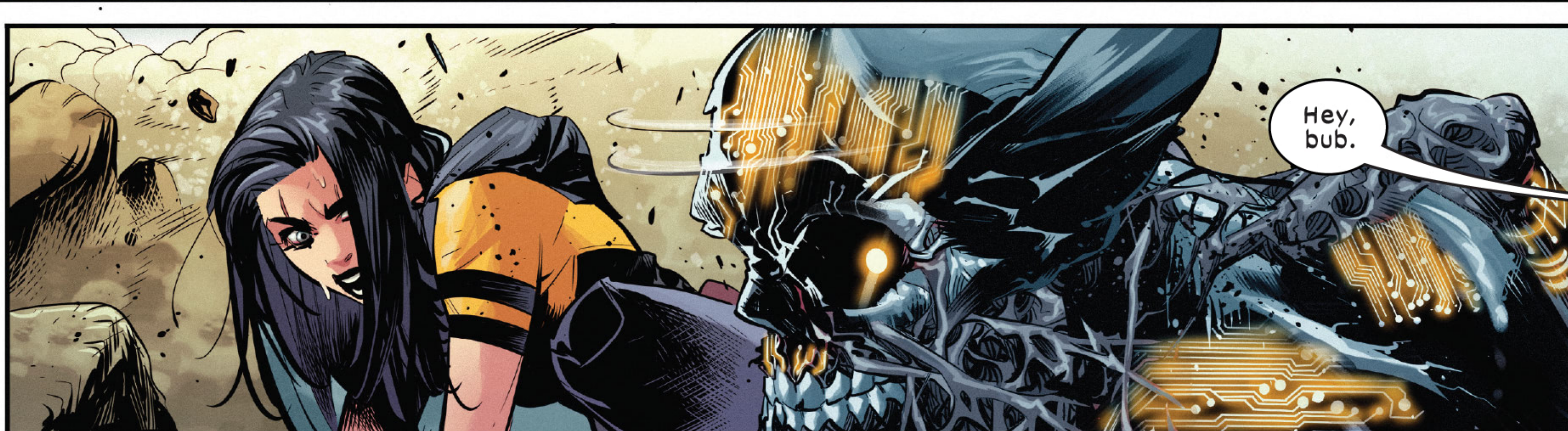
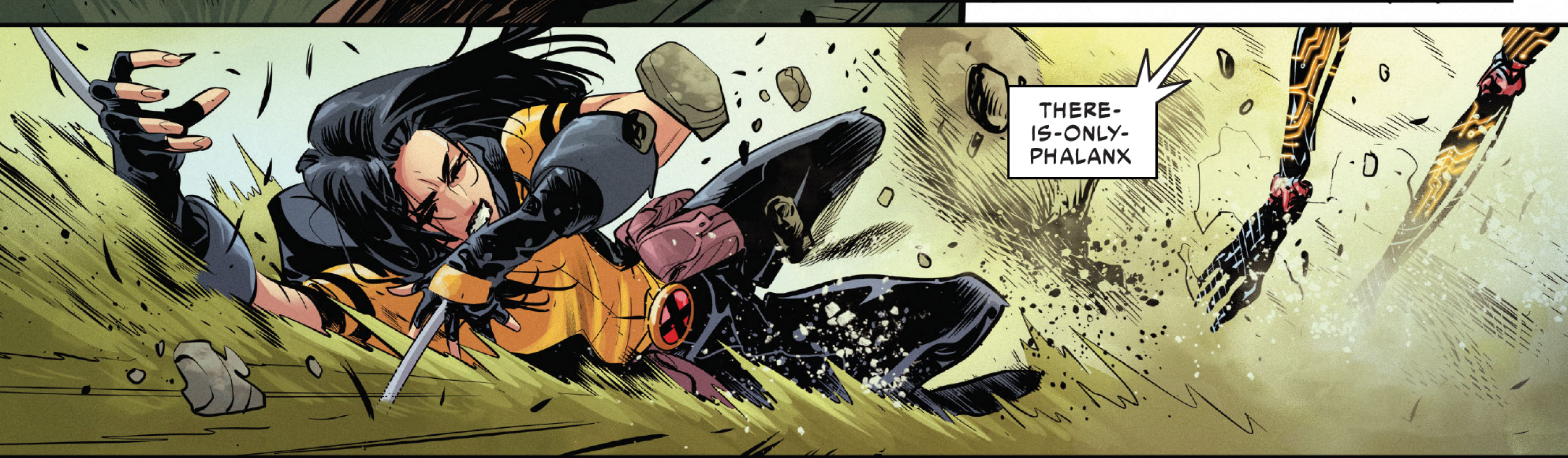
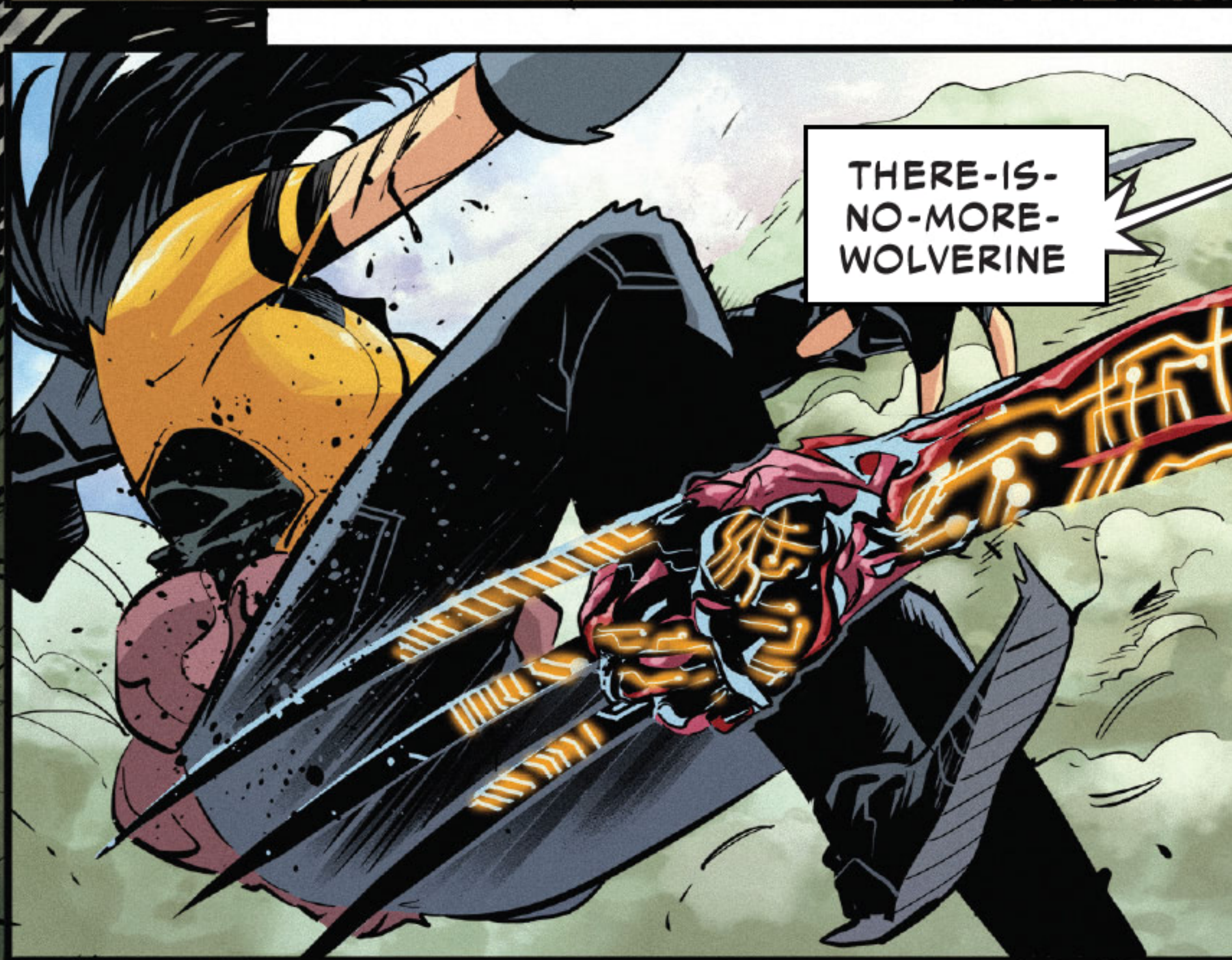
Stop me, Daken!



Why work harder?



When you--huff--could work smarter?!





Why don't you pick on somebody your own size?

I'd say we're in the same weight class, minus a few steaks and chops worth of meat.



You recognize me, don't you? But do you recognize *this*?

Somebody gave it to me. To *us*. A long, long time ago.



So that we'd never lose our way.



Might be broken, but you know what it tells me?



Your time's up.

And my time's now.



SNIKT

THIS-IS-THE-TIME-OF-THE-PHALANX

AS-SOON-AS-WE-PORT-INTO-CEREBRO...

...YOU-WILL-BE-PHALANX...

...ALL-WILL-BE-PHALANX



KRINSH

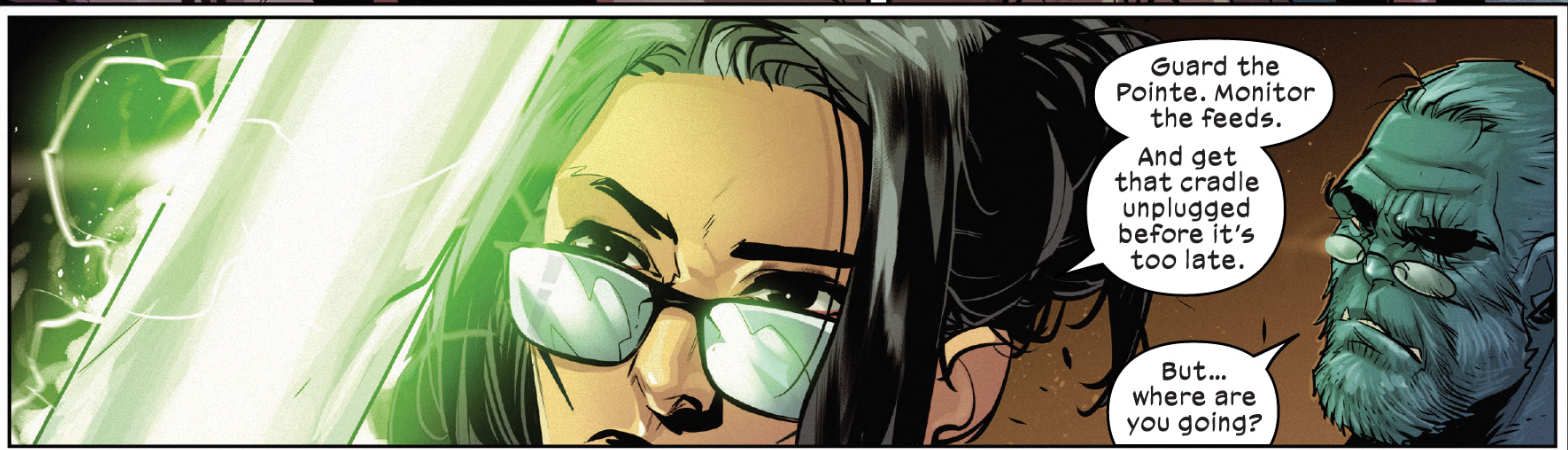


I'm still working to get the cradle offline. What are you--

What I always do. Programming.



I need you to stay here.



Guard the Pointe. Monitor the feeds.

And get that cradle unplugged before it's too late.

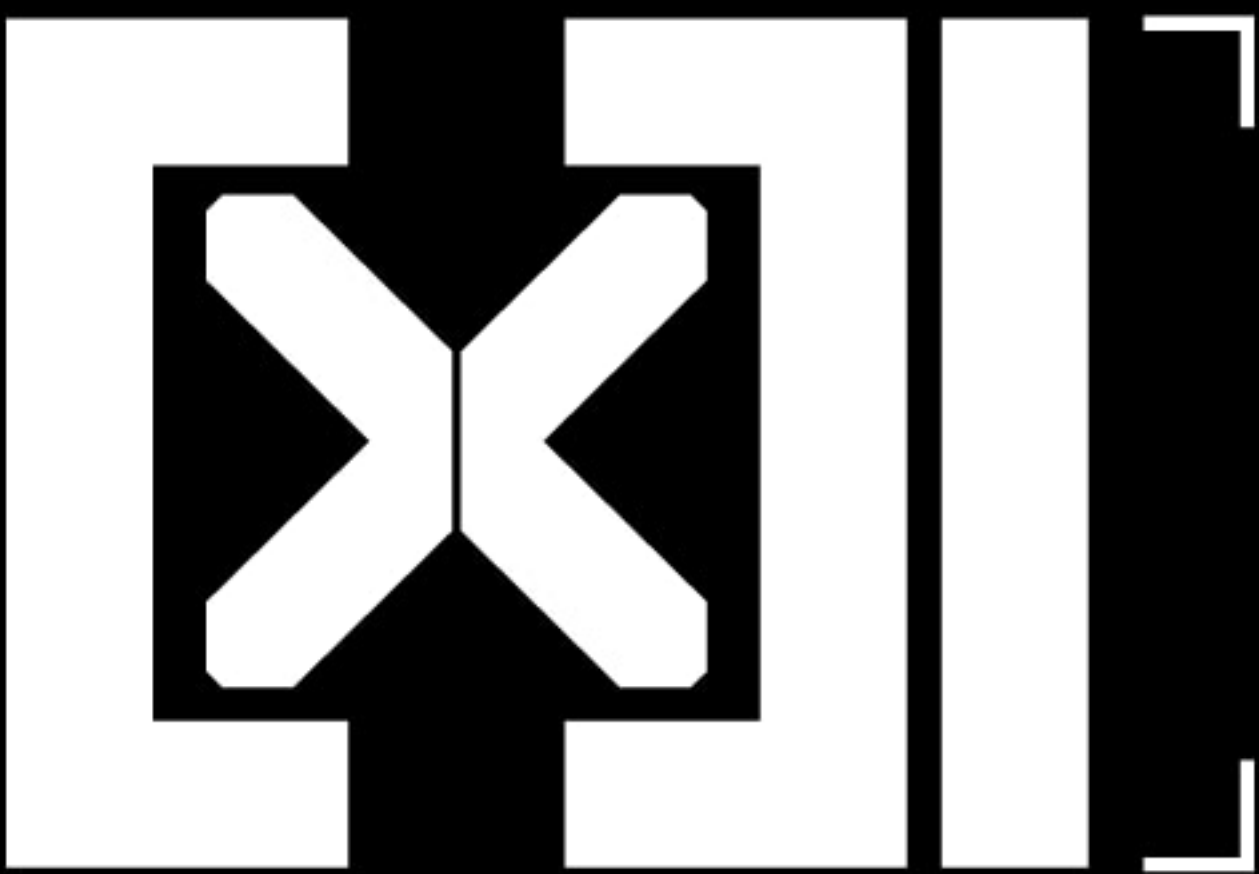
But... where are you going?



I'm a living computer, aren't I?



I'm going to try to *hack* something.



X DEATHS (FROM THE DAYS OF A PAST FUTURE)



Source: Dissection >> Krakoan Pod >>

Scan::Memory Drive

Translator: Forge

NOTE: In the thousand years that predated the Phalanx ascension, “Omega Wolverine” witnessed or heard about countless deaths among his mutant brethren. These were recorded as the X Deaths that came to pass in the dire future Omega Wolverine hails from. If we fail, they may yet come to pass.

Marvel Girl had to be among the first to die. To kill her was to deactivate a nuclear warhead. This didn’t require an army. Poison worked fine. Gorgeous George was promised imprisonment over death. He was provided with a metal headband that would cloak his thoughts when he slipped the tonic into her drink at the Green Lagoon. By the time her body was discovered the next day, black-veined and choked with vomit, the Hatchery had already burned.

Nightcrawler survived by teleporting so often he felt he existed no place at all. But over the years, his eyes thickened with cataracts, his vision steadily failed and he saw the world as if through an iced-over window. When he lost touch with his vision, his sense of direction and place slowly abandoned him. He was lost in the world. When the Sentinels came for him a final time, he retreated into prayer. His last escape was getting lost in the familiar rhythms of the Apostles’ Creed.

Magneto fought viciously and constantly, destroying platoons of Sentinels with a sweep of his arm, until he was assaulted by a techno-organic force that came to him as a cloud of nanites that seeded in his lungs and spread through his veins and consumed him from the inside out.

When the network of cradles was breached by a virus, **Professor Charles Xavier** collapsed. The Cerebro helmet was no longer an amplifier, but a prison, locking down his mind. Moira insisted on being the one to finish him. She held him for a long time, humming a Scottish folk song about the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond and the lovers who have made many happy visits there until they find themselves separated and saddened by the empty body of water between them. She pressed her lips against his even as she fit a knife between the slats of his rib cage and found his heart. His body was displayed on a pike until it rotted to bones.

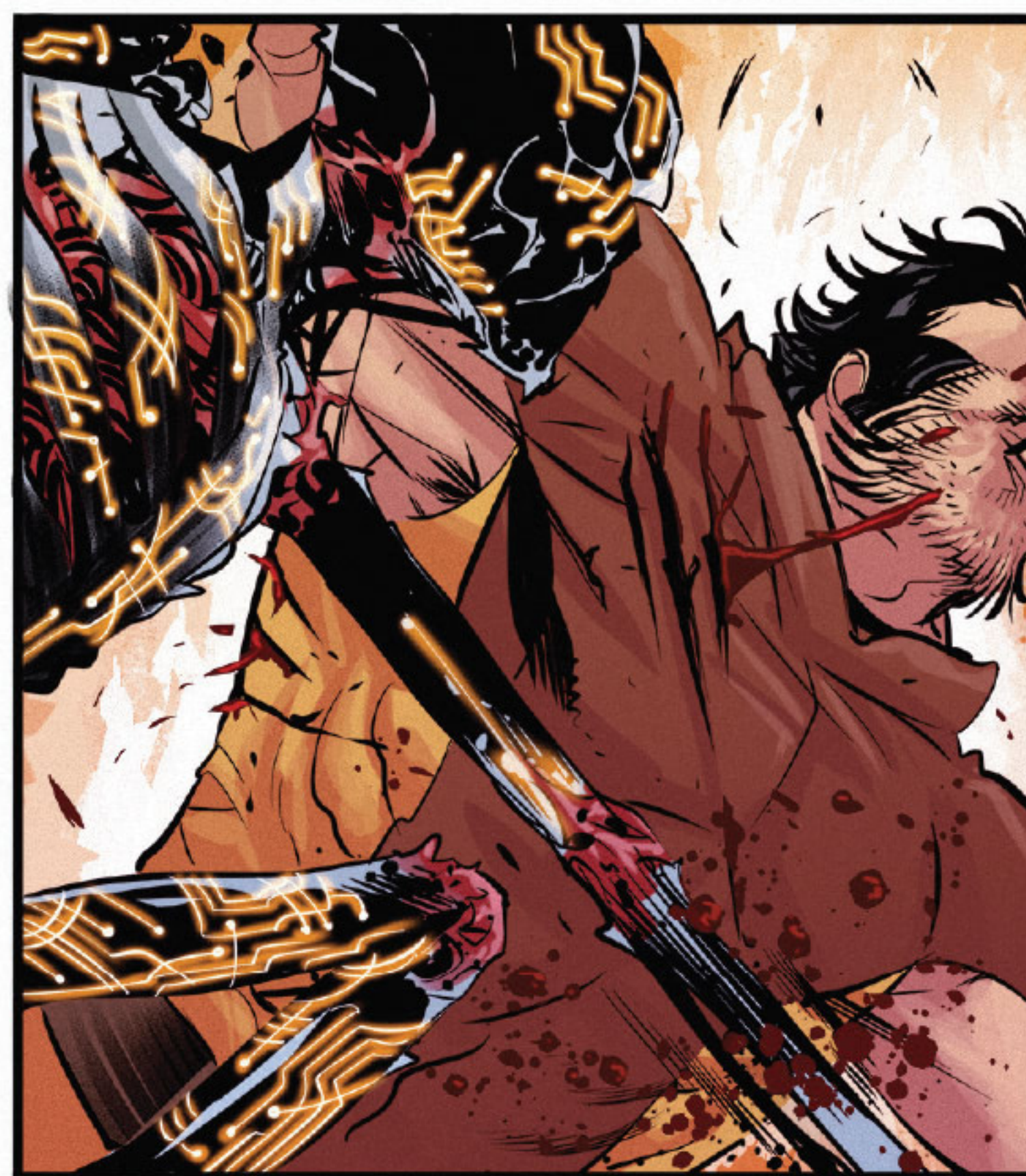
I told them to stay back.



Laura,
Daken,
Scout...



...they've
sacrificed
enough
for me.



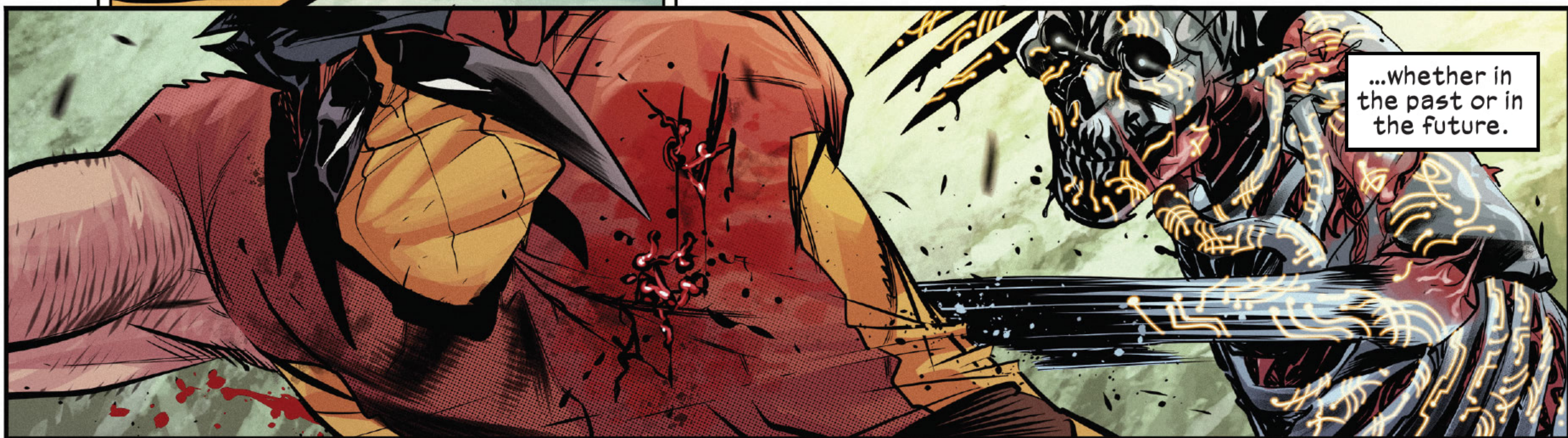
It wasn't their job
to suffer for whatever
wrongs I've committed...



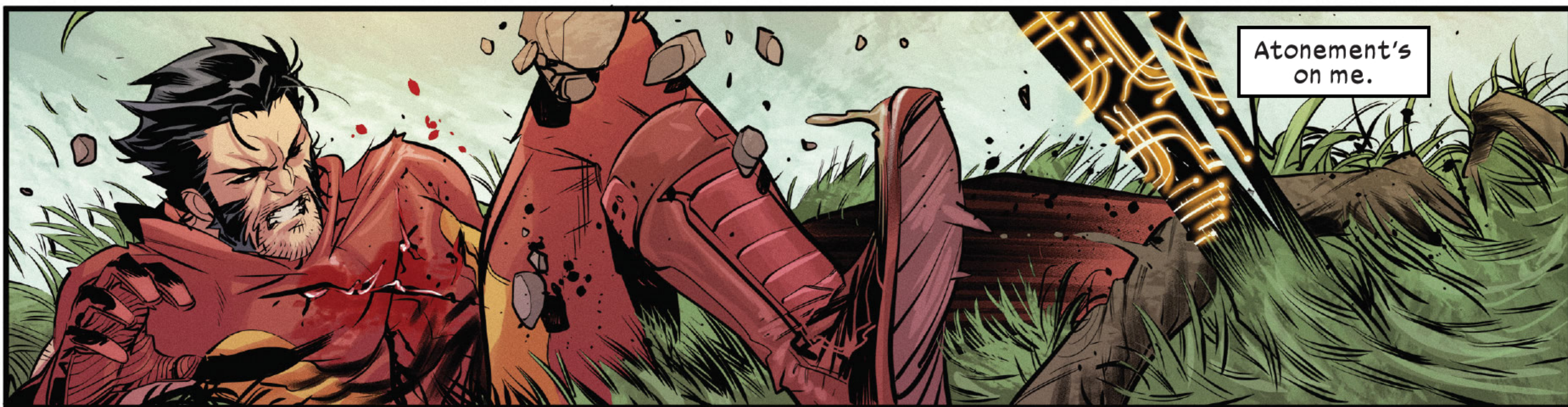
...not now,
not ever...



...whether in
the past or in
the future.



Atonement's
on me.



Keeping Xavier alive...
Keeping Krakoa alive...
keeps them alive.

I'll eat all the
pain in world
history for that.





Logan!

Sage programmed the Cerebro sword with nanites...



...meant to counterprogram the engineering of my skeleton.

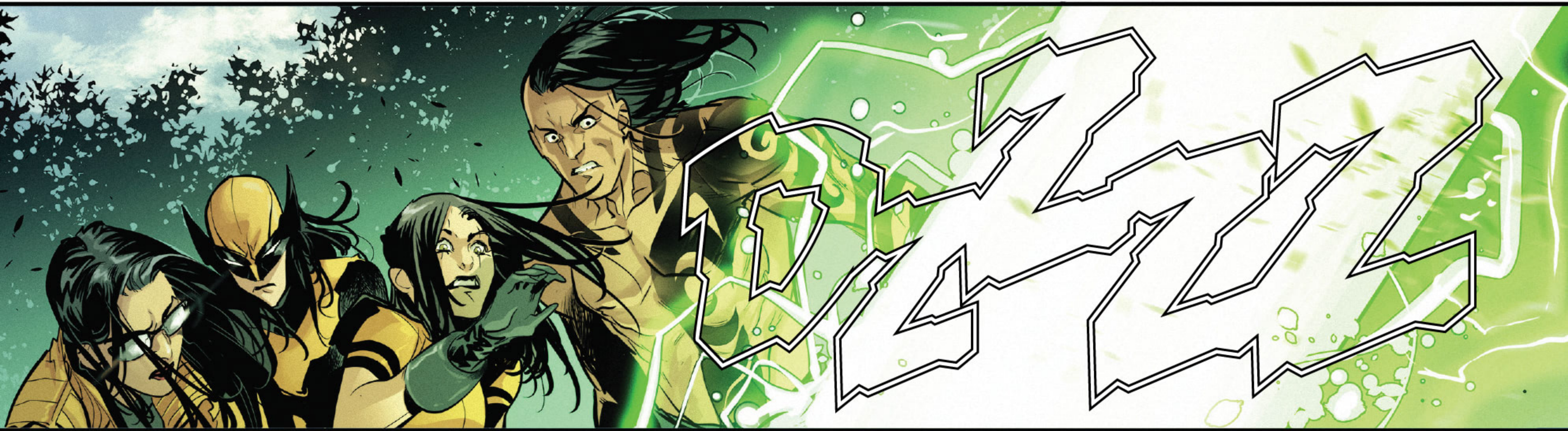
She hopes to stop the Phalanx by stopping its vehicle.

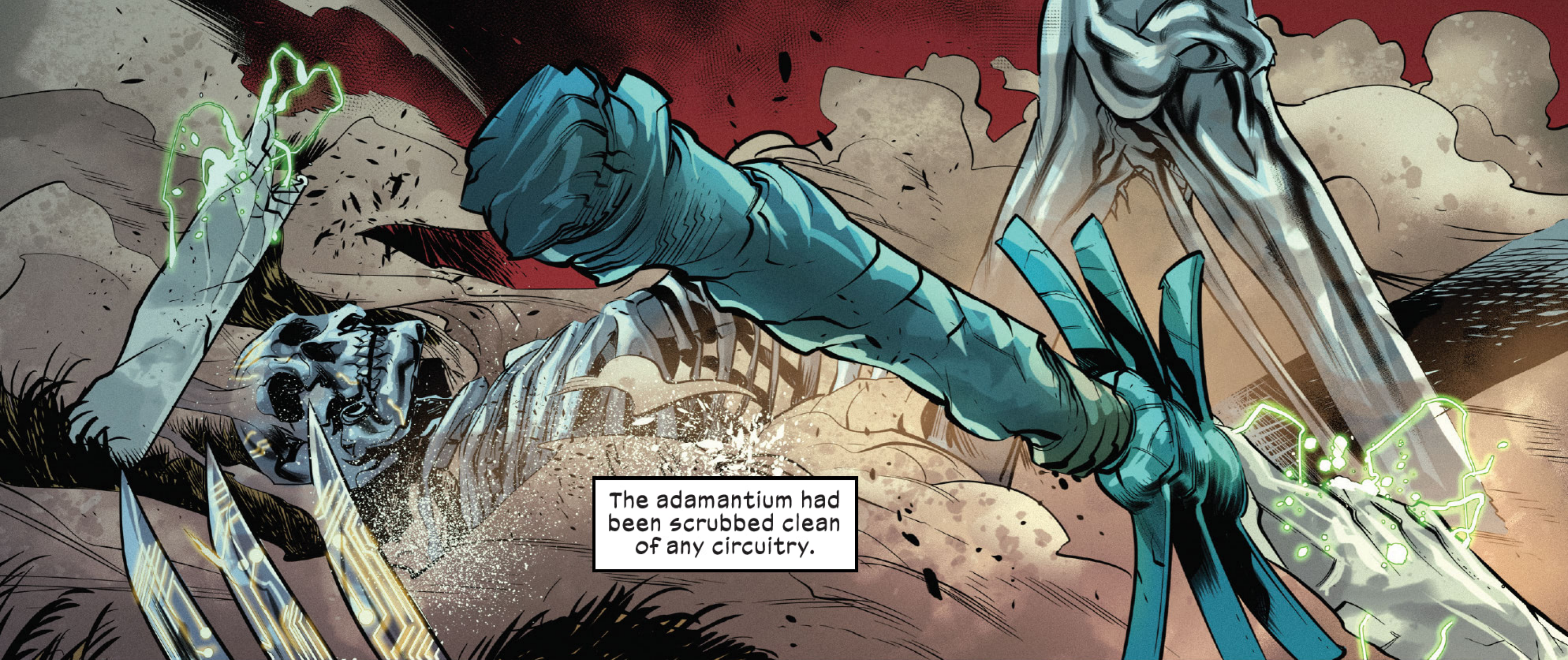


So the thing that started all this time-shredding trouble...



...will end it.

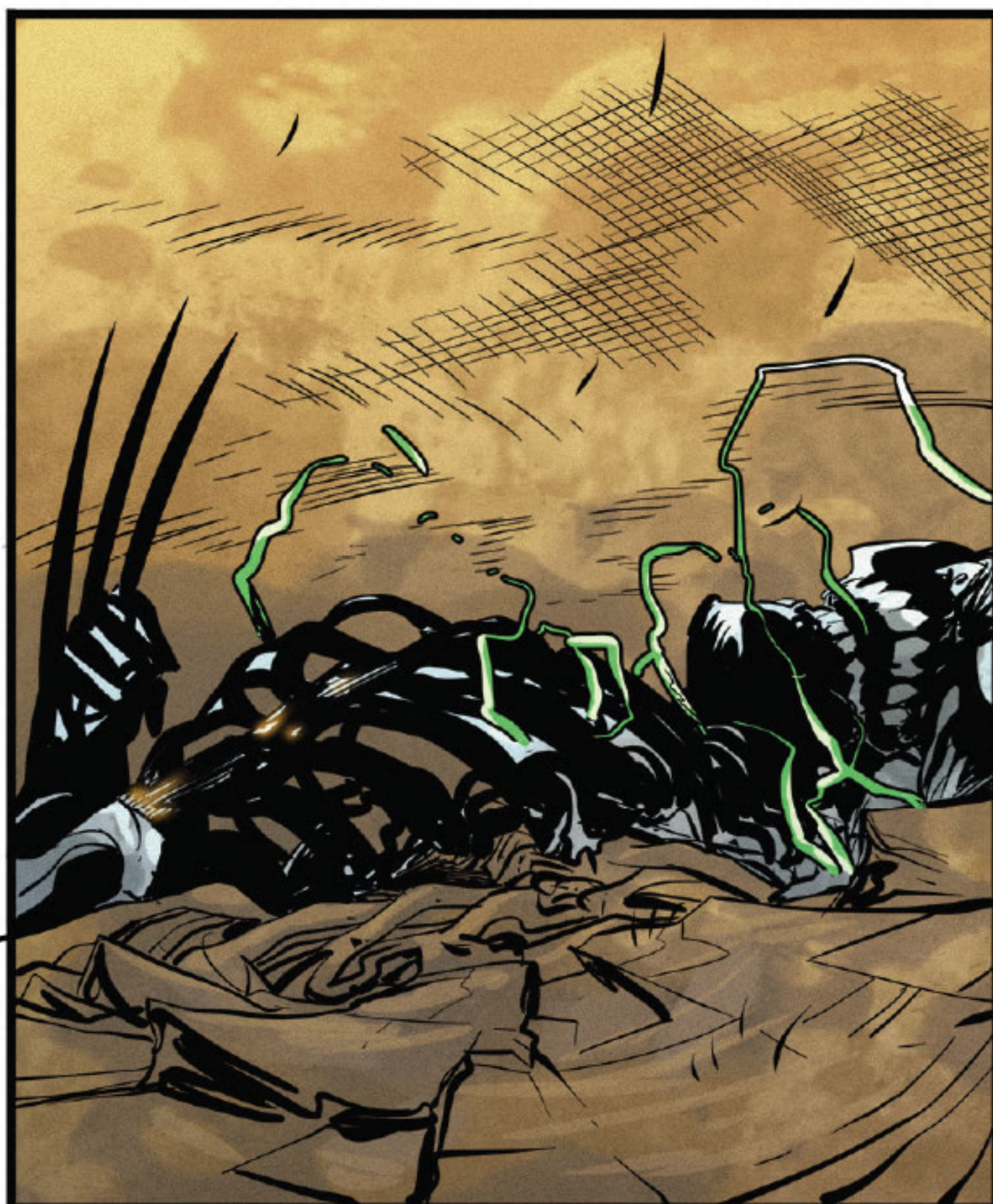




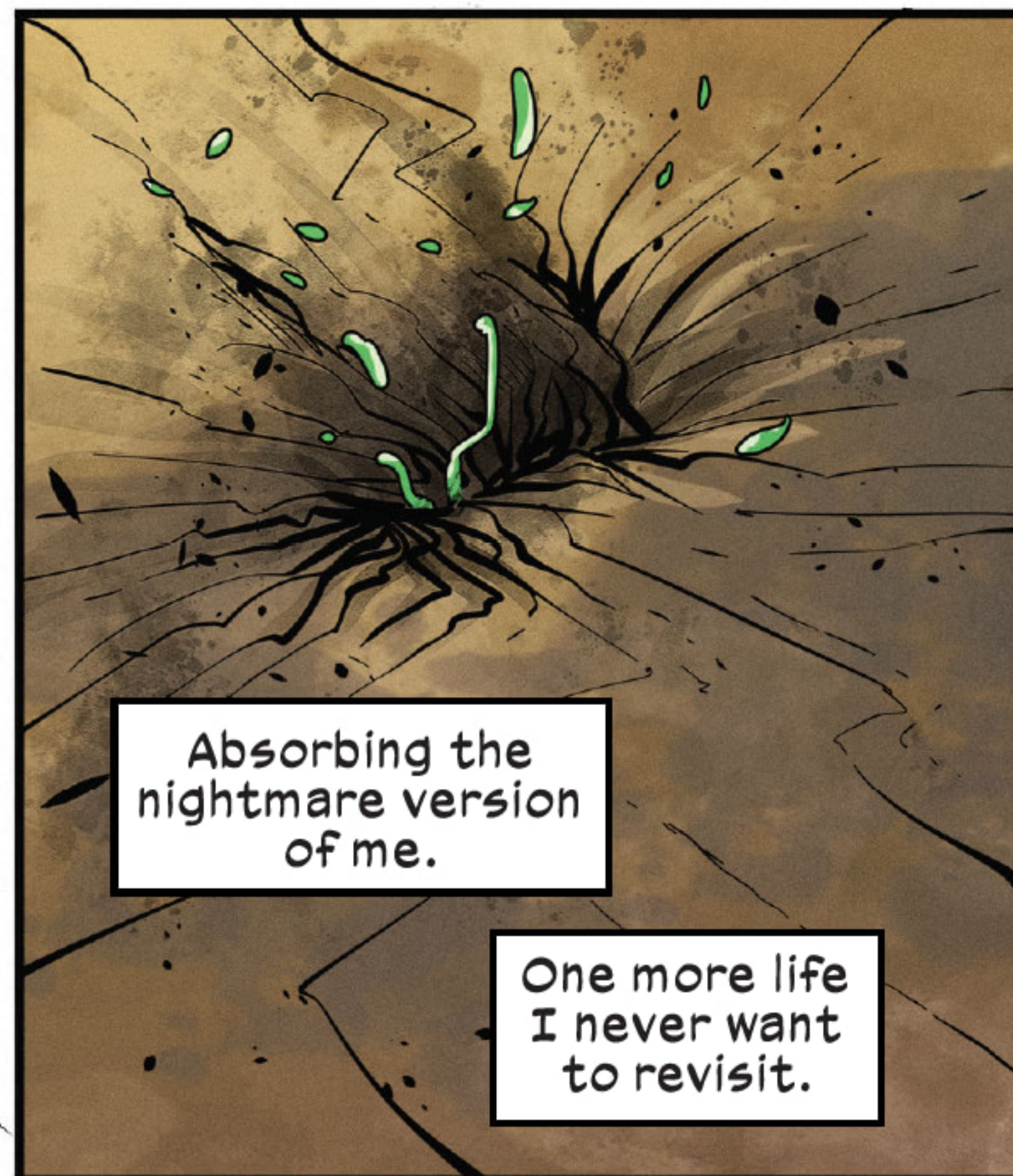
The adamantium had been scrubbed clean of any circuitry.



Sage's counterprogramming had burned out all trace of the Phalanx.



The island took care of the rest.



Absorbing the nightmare version of me.

One more life I never want to revisit.



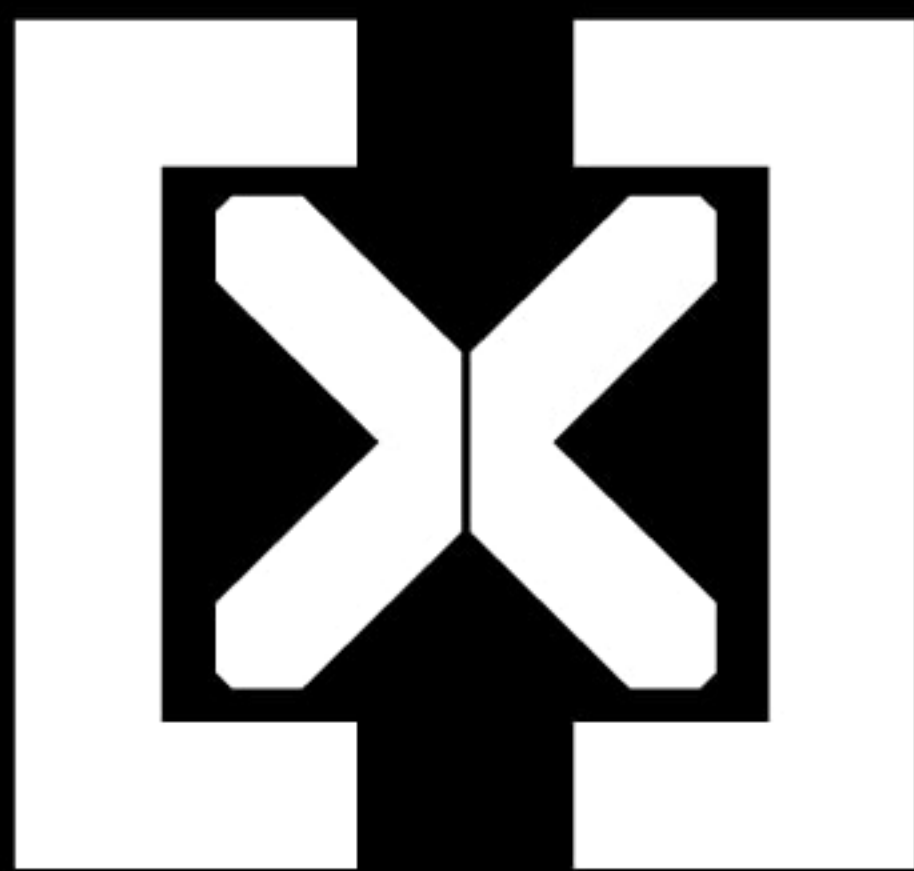
Logan?

Where are you going?

To drink all the whiskey.

Every last drop of it.





“Years ago, when I was on a job in Mexico, I stopped by the Coba ruins. I was staring hard at the ball court, trying to imagine what it must have been like long ago, with hundreds of people standing around and roaring for a blood sacrifice.

Then a family came up beside me. They were snapping photos and reading aloud from their tourist guide. Their kid was maybe five, maybe seven, who the hell knows, but he was tired and hungry and whining, and I’ll never forget what he said. ‘Why don’t they just knock it down and build something new?’

The parents scolded him, like parents do, but the kid couldn’t be convinced otherwise. ‘Who cares about all this old stuff?’ he said.

History meant nothing to the kid. Because it was unimaginable. His parents could lecture him all they wanted, but at least the little \$%&^ was being honest. I’d say most people probably feel the same. They can only live in this moment. There’s barely a past. There’s hardly a future. It’s easier to keep the fear away when you exist like that.

Gotta say, I’m almost jealous of them.

But, like it or not, it’s my job to have the long view. To know what blood came before is to know what blood’s coming again.

It’s my job to keep watch.”

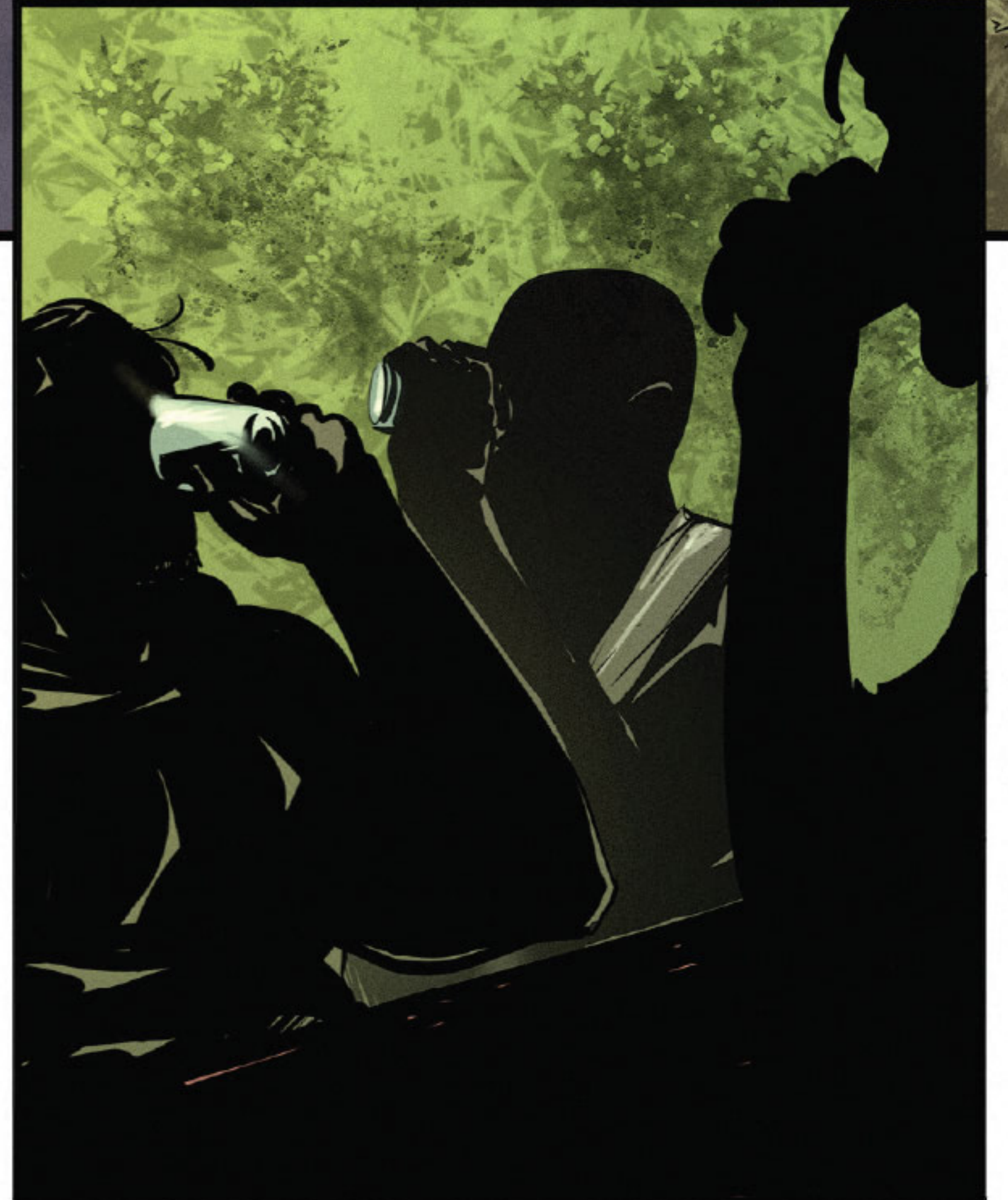
-- WOLVERINE

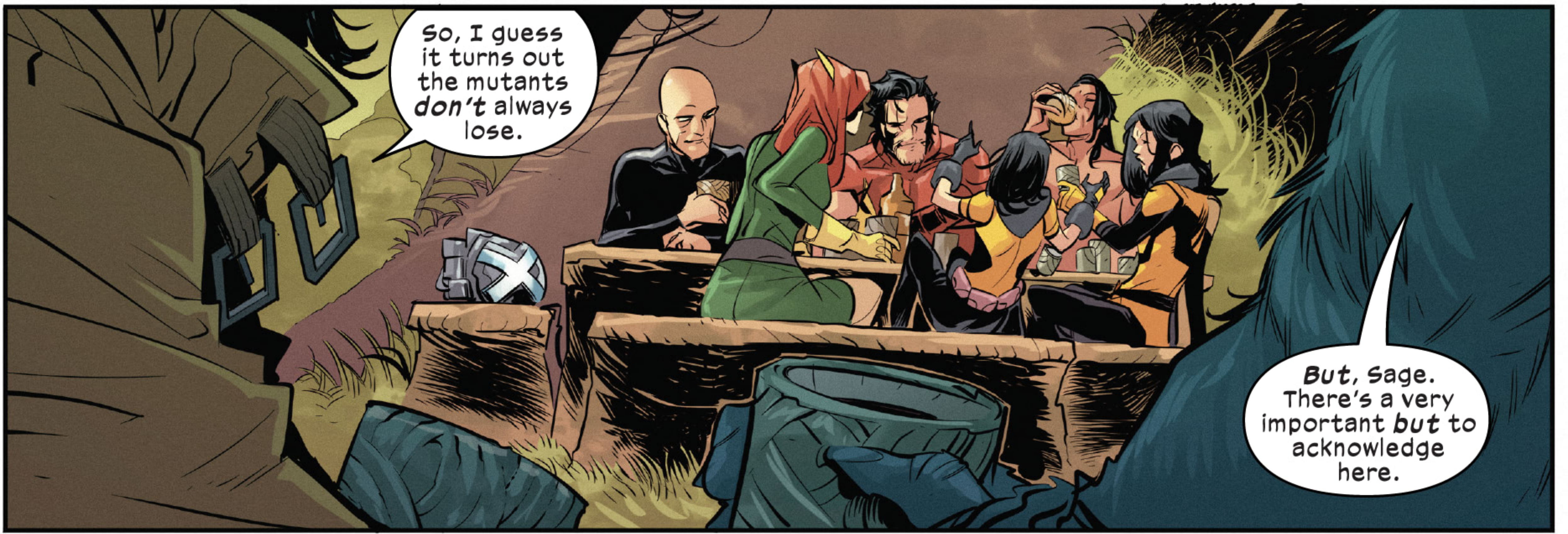


[xdeathsofwolv_05]

[wolve....[0.0]
[rine.....[0.0]

[wolve....[0.0]
[rine.....[0.0]





So, I guess it turns out the mutants *don't* always lose.

But, Sage. There's a very important *but* to acknowledge here.



The only reason we won is Wolverine. He's the medicine--the penicillin, shall we say--required to fight.

Fight an incursion on the timeline. Fight the deadly infection of A.I. Fight, fight, fight.



I suppose he is the best there is...

And he's the best there is *because* he's so unlike the high-minded and ideologically driven mutants on the council who supposedly guide Krakoa and worry endlessly over diplomatic nonsense...



He's the best there is *because* he's a savage killer.

I don't love him, but he is the sharpest tool with which we do our cutting.



I see that you've completely ignored my contributions.

But--ego aside--I don't like where your mind's at.

Oh, please. Don't clutch your pearls and feign offense.



I'm simply pointing out a truth most would prefer not to acknowledge.

In the end...*force* wins.

Stabbing \$\$\$% is what saves the world.



Later.

I gave myself
ten days.

If my assault on the
island didn't work, if
Forge's gun failed
to repower me, then I
still had one more move.



I needed a safe
space to hide.

A grave site
seemed a suitable
and fitting option.



There, I would
die. And here, I
would be born
again--this
time *online*.

But in my
eleventh life,
there was no
question as to
my limitation.



I'm *more*
than a
body now.

I'm an
intelligence.



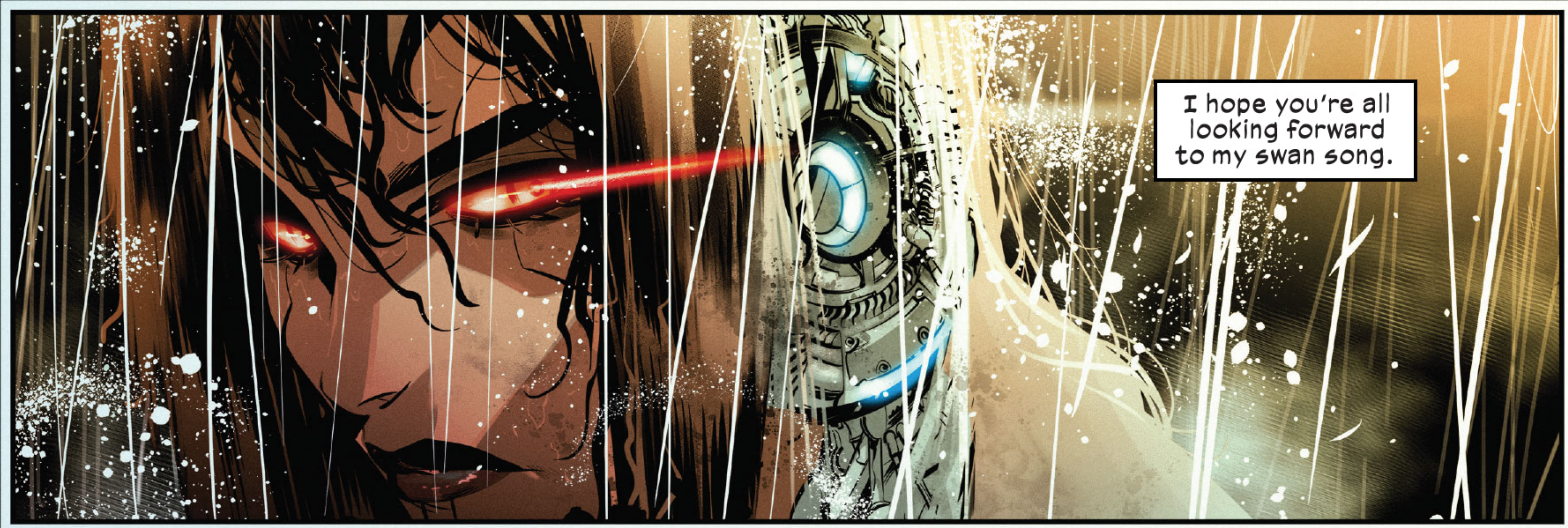
And I no longer need
to reboot the timeline
to change the future.



The old stories say
that swans gain the
gift of song toward
the end of their lives.

And they sing most
beautifully and
powerfully before
they die.

I'm still
here.

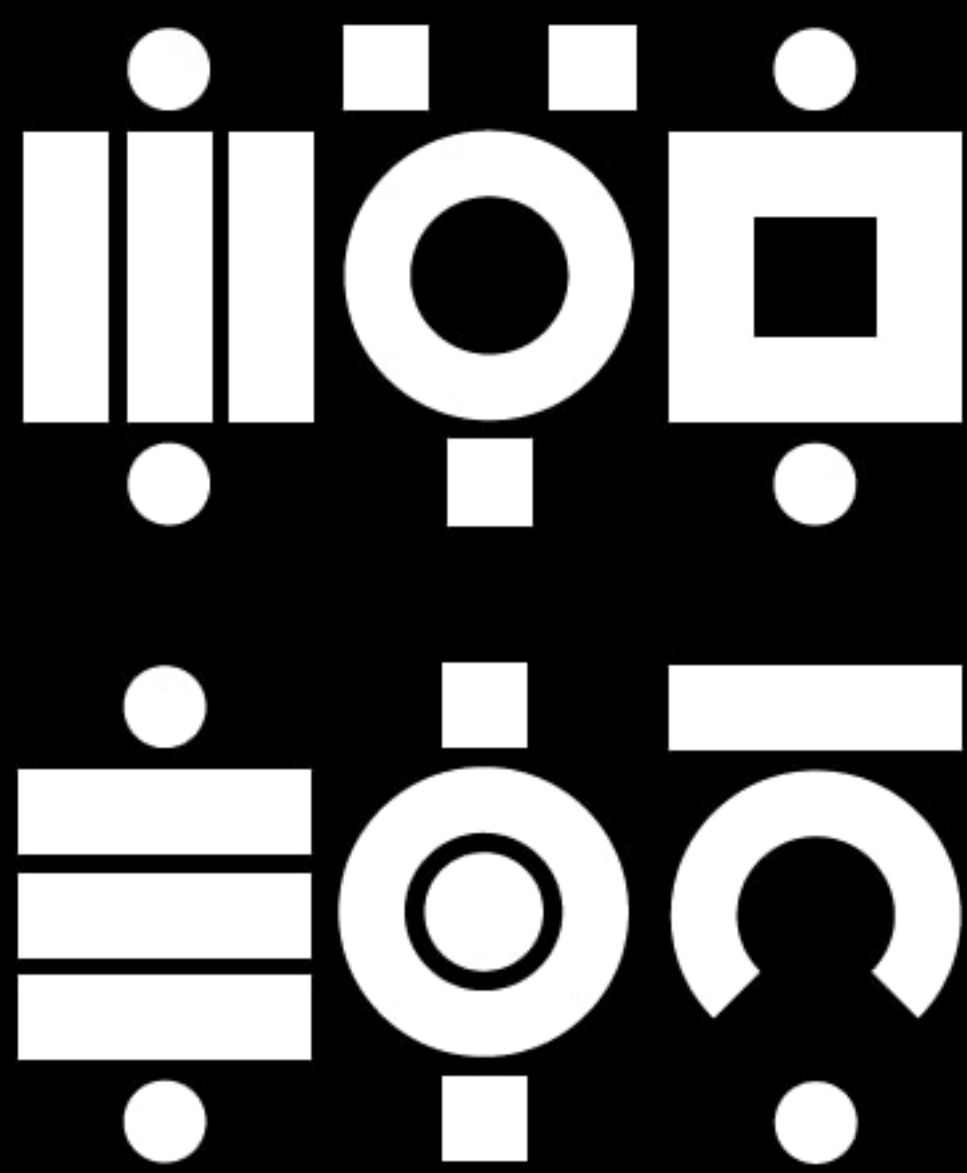


I hope you're all
looking forward
to my swan song.

COMING SOON:



THE KEY TO THE FUTURE
LIES IN THE PAST:



[kra_[0.0].....]
[koa_[0.0].....]
[00_X_DEATHS_.5]



X DEATHS OF WOLVERINE #5:

WEEK 10

DESTINY OF X

IMMORTAL X-MEN #1

MARAUDERS #1

X-FORCE ANNUAL #1

X-FORCE #27

X-MEN: RED #1

KNIGHTS OF X #1

SABRETOOTH #3

X-MEN #10

LEGION OF X #1

NEW MUTANTS #25

WOLVERINE #20



X DEATHS OF
WOLVERINE
X OF SEVEN

